

## REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed concurrently with the utility application prior to any action taken by the Patent Office on the application herein and introduces no new matter.

Claims 6-8, 12-14, 16, 20, 21, 32, and 34 from the original application have been rewritten to include limitations of claims that are the subject of the original application, as well as independent claims directed to the present embodiments. Furthermore, dependant claims from the original application were added, now depending from independent claims of the embodiments that are the subject of this divisional application. Additionally, new claims have been added to further clarify the subject of this application.

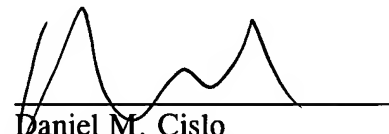
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference. Applicant believes and contends that all of the foregoing new claims represent a single patentable invention, but if the Examiner should take a contrary position, Applicant would provisionally elect the foregoing method claims for the sole purpose of advancing the prosecution of the present application, without prejudice to any future prosecution of any non-elected claims.

With the above-referenced preliminary amendments, it is believed that the application is in a condition for examination; and Applicants respectfully request Examiner to pass the application on to allowance. Applicant submits concurrently herewith a fee transmittal form and a check in the amount of the necessary filing fee.

It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP



Daniel M. Cislo  
Reg. No. 32,973

Date: December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003

CISLO & THOMAS LLP  
233 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 900  
Santa Monica, California 90401  
Tel: (310) 451-0647  
Fax: (310) 394-4477  
www.cislo.com

Z:\TMD\03-12812\03-12812 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.DOC